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Pingree (Kuster)	Steube (Franklin, C. Scott)	Wilson (FL) (Hayes)
Porter (Wexton)		

MAKING TECHNICAL CORRECTION TO ALS DISABILITY INSURANCE ACCESS ACT OF 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 579) to make a technical correction to the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act of 2019, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 579

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. RETROACTIVE ACCESS TO SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY BENEFITS INDIVIDUALS WITH AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS (ALS).

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2(b) of the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act of 2019 (Public Law 116-250) is amended by striking “applications for disability insurance benefits filed after the date of enactment of this Act” and inserting “applications for disability insurance benefits approved after the date that is 5 months before the date of enactment of this Act”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act of 2019 (Public Law 116-250).

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. SCALISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the majority leader of the House, for the purpose of inquiring as to the schedule for next week.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding.

Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, the House will meet at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business, with votes expected no earlier than 6:30 p.m.

On Wednesday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business.

On Thursday, the House will meet at noon for legislative business.

On Friday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business, with the last votes no later than 3 p.m.

Madam Speaker, we will consider several bills under suspension of the rules. The complete list of suspension bills will be announced by the close of business Friday.

In addition, we will consider two bills to honor Women's History Month, including the Violence Against Women Act. This legislation is essential to help stamp out domestic abuse, violence against women and girls, and sexual harassment, and to provide victims and survivors with the resources to recover and seek justice. In addition to that, the House will consider a resolution to remove the deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

The House will also consider two bills to address our broken immigration system. The first, H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act, is to protect Dreamers and those with TPS and DED status. In addition, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act is to create a pathway for agricultural workers to earn legal status and to reform the H-2A program, a bill which enjoys broad bipartisan support.

Additionally, the House will consider a bill to ensure that we preclude cuts to Medicare, as well as farm supports and other programs implicated by sequestration.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and I appreciate the update on the schedule.

Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the gentleman, we have been getting a number of concerns expressed from Members on our side—and I would imagine on the gentleman's side as well—about the erratic floor schedule, the changes that have occurred. This week, we were supposed to be here Tuesday to Friday. It was changed to Monday to Thursday. Next week, initially, the calendar showed that it was a week for Members to be in their districts.

Madam Speaker, we all have challenges in our districts. There are small businesses that are struggling to stay afloat. Many Members are working with their local school boards to try to encourage schools to reopen. And all the other challenges that people have, whether it is trying to get water or spread distribution of the vaccine, as they set those meetings in their districts, when the floor schedule changes here, it disrupts their ability to properly represent their districts.

I know the schedule is laid out for the year for a reason, so that Members can manage both the schedule here—and we all represent 750,000 people, roughly, back home—and the ability to properly meet with and represent constituents who aren't even allowed to come to this Capitol to meet with us, so we want to go meet with them back home. It is hard to do that when the schedule continues to change.

If the gentleman would address the concerns that have been raised, rightfully so, about those erratic changes, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I agree with the Members, and I regret that we have had such a necessity on too many occasions to change the schedule. We did so, of course, to accommodate not only work done but also the very, very unusual start that we have had to this session, a tragic start that we have had to this session, dealing with issues that we would have preferred not to deal with, but we had to as a result of the insurrection that occurred on January 6, and other actions, including the security that the gentleman referred to. That concerns us all.

As somebody who represents the Washington metropolitan region, the openness of our Capitol is of particular concern to me because my constituents all live within driving distance, an hour or less. So, I share the view.

Madam Speaker, I want to assure Members that we are going to make every effort and that we are trying to now finalize. We already have April, May, June, and July as the schedule. I think that will not be changed in any dramatic fashion. But when we have the final, I hope to make sure that everybody, next week, before we leave here, knows what is going to happen in April, May, June, July, before the August break. Because I understand, when the schedule is changed, for whatever reasons, however justified they may be, it does disrupt.

Although I heard some criticism last Wednesday that we didn't come in Thursday, no Member came up to me complaining that we didn't come in Thursday. I did hear some political rap about it, but I didn't hear any Members say, “Oh, jeez, I really wanted to come in Thursday.” That usually is the case.

Madam Speaker, I want to remind the gentleman that we got all of our work done last week. All that was scheduled was done.

I will assure the gentleman that we are working very hard so that, the next 4 months, Members can rely on it when they see on the calendar that they have to be here or they don't have to be here, or that we are going to consider this, that, and the other.

We are going to try to hew very, very closely to that because I do appreciate that when you change the schedule, it is very disruptive for people's lives, for people's businesses, for our constituents.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland.

I appreciate the acknowledgment about the concerns and the disruptions of schedules as Members try to meet the needs of their constituents back home, as well as doing the work up here. Clearly, getting our work done is the first and most important priority to addressing those needs.

Hopefully, as we look toward our return after we come back in April, the appropriations process will begin. We would surely like to see us get back to a more regular order for doing appropriations bills, where we can have bills